

There will never be enough captioning until everything is captioned. If it's important enough to put on the air, it's important enough to be captioned.

I've used captioning as a hearing person, when I needed silence in the house. I've used captioning as a parent, helping my children learn to read by just absorbing simultaneous sound and script. My son was reading simple words at 25 months, and while he was very early, he was not alone at early reading for children who have captioning up.

Partly because of his early success, when English as a Second Language teachers started arriving on the scene in Minneapolis, I strongly urged them to make sure their students understood how much more easily they'd learn to read and to understand spoken English if they used the captioning option on their TVs.

I now have used captioning for access as a deaf person. It's one of the great levelers in my life--it helps me keep up to date on what's happening in the world all the time. During Minnesota's notorious tornado season, captioning can literally be a lifesaver for people who use/need it. During times of national emergency, like 9/11, captioning is the only reliable way for many people to get the news. Internet news is literally too slow to be helpful when the scene is shifting moment by moment, as it was when the planes hit the towers.

I'm looking forward to the day when if a piece of programming is not captioned, it can't be aired.